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SUBJECT: IVLP Returnee Spearheads Judicial Reforms in
Nigeria: GPRA Report on FY-05

AFRP "Women and the Law"

July 11 - 29, 2005

11. Summary: Ms. Faustinah I. Kola-Olalere, Chair of Magistrate Association of Nigeria (MAN) returned from her IVLP program with a consuming passion: transforming Nigeria's courts emphasis on punishment to correction and reformation. She hopes this new emphasis would reduce Nigeria's crime rate by fifty percent. Looking ahead, she hopes that there will be separate prisons and reformatory centers established for women before her career ends in 20 years. End summary.

12. Date: July 11 - 30, 2005
Fiscal Year: FY - 2005
Quarter: Fourth

13. Ms. Kola-Olalere is a Magistrate in the city of Ilorin, Kwara State, in central Nigeria. She has already begun bestowing corrective and reformatory judgments as opposed to punitive judgments. She is conveying this message to her colleagues in the Magistrate Association of Nigeria (MAN). Given that Magistrates handle over 80% of litigations in Nigeria, Post is hopeful that Ms. Kola-Olalere's crusade will have a multiplier effect and spur judicial reforms, which will result in promoting democracy in Nigeria.

14. Although Ms. Kola-Olalere had challenges on the return leg of her journey, because her U.S. visa did not provide sufficient travel time, her overall impressions of the program was very good. She was full of praises for ECA staff, ELOs, and host family, Jerry and Mary Jordan, who welcomed her in Dallas for three additional days while her travel was being arranged.

CAMPBELL